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17 June 1965



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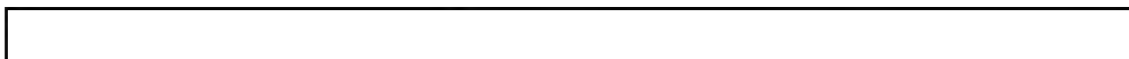
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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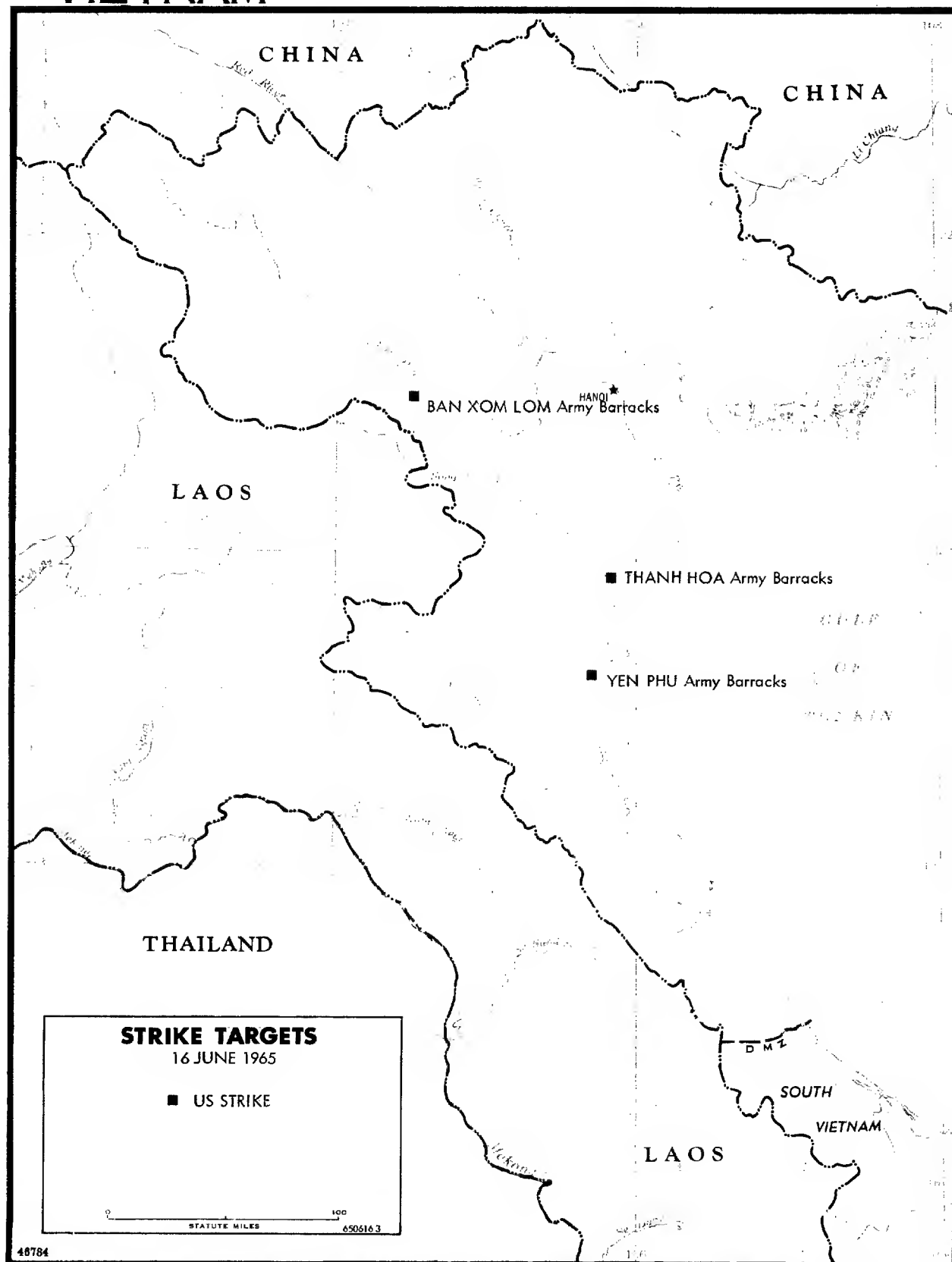
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NORTH VIETNAM



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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Air Strikes in North Vietnam: Two US Navy F4B jet fighters from the USS MIDWAY engaged four MIG-17s about 40 miles south of Hanoi this morning. Two of the MIGs were destroyed by air-to-air missiles. There are no indications that the Navy aircraft were fired on.

On 16 June, US aircraft carried out four strikes on barracks areas despite poor weather. US Navy carrier aircraft conducted two strikes on the Yen Phu army barracks, destroying a total of 21 buildings and severely damaging 12. USAF aircraft struck barracks areas at Ban Xom Lom and Thanh Hoa, destroying or damaging about 20 buildings. USN armed reconnaissance missions were hampered by weather, but damaged three wooden bridges and eight lighters. USAF missions destroyed two bridges, sank eleven small ferries and sank or damaged about 20 lighters.

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[Communist Military Developments: A fourth surface-to-air missile site is under construction northwest of Hanoi, according to a field analysis of 16 June photography. This site has two revetments almost complete, and four others in various stages of construction. A central guidance revetment is also evident and one possible missile hold revetment appears to be under construction.]

Communist Political Developments: The head of the British Communist Party, John Gollan, is in Hanoi for talks with high level North Vietnamese party officials. On 14 and 15 June, according to radio Hanoi, the British delegation met with party first secretary Le Duan and politburo members Le Duc Tho and Hoang Van Hoan. Hanoi described the

meetings as taking place in a "cordial and friendly atmosphere" and stated that the two parties exchanged views on a number of problems "of mutual concern." This is the second visit by a pro-Soviet West European Communist Party delegation to Hanoi in recent months. An Italian Communist group spent ten days in North Vietnam in late April and early May.

[Popular apprehension in Communist China over the possibility of air attacks on China itself appears to be growing.]

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[Over the last several months Chinese Communist leaders have been attempting to paint a convincing image of their determination to intervene directly in Vietnam, under certain conditions, probably in an effort to deter the US from escalating the war. Liu Shao-chi, Chou En-lai and Chen Yi told a delegation of visiting officials from Ghana in late April that if the war in Vietnam took a turn which threatened to destroy the DRV, Communist China would be compelled to come in as it had in Korea.]

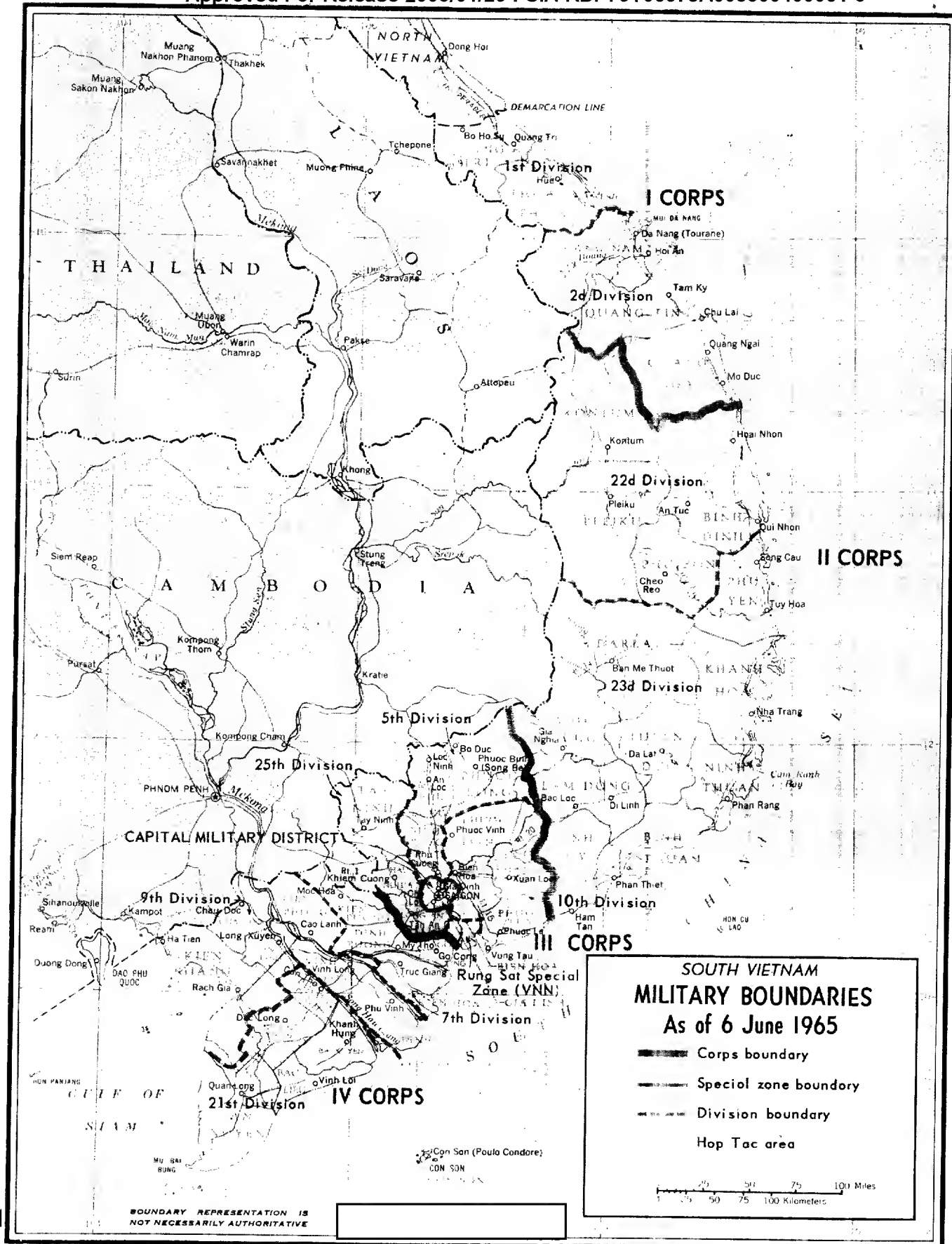
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Political Developments in South Vietnam: Air force commander General Ky, apparently still in line for the premiership, is engaged in efforts to complete a cabinet, with substantial civilian participation, by the end of the week. [During a conversation with Ambassador Taylor yesterday, Ky and General Thieu outlined additional plans of the military to put the country on a maximum wartime footing, but seemed to underestimate the difficulties which might be incurred. They stressed that they hoped gradually to expand civilian participation with the aim of returning power to civilians within a year.]

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There are signs that both the Buddhists and Catholics, whose mutual antagonisms have in the past carried over into the military, are each concerned that the other will predominate under military rule. [Buddhist leader Tri Quang told an Embassy officer that he feared that General Thieu, as prospective chief of state, would reimpose a Catholic dictatorship on the country and that the "people" might react if a more neutral officer were not put in charge. On the other hand,] one of the more extreme refugee Catholic priests, whose major grievance has been the influence of Ky and Buddhist-oriented generals, has warned the Embassy that there "will be trouble" if military dictatorship evolves.

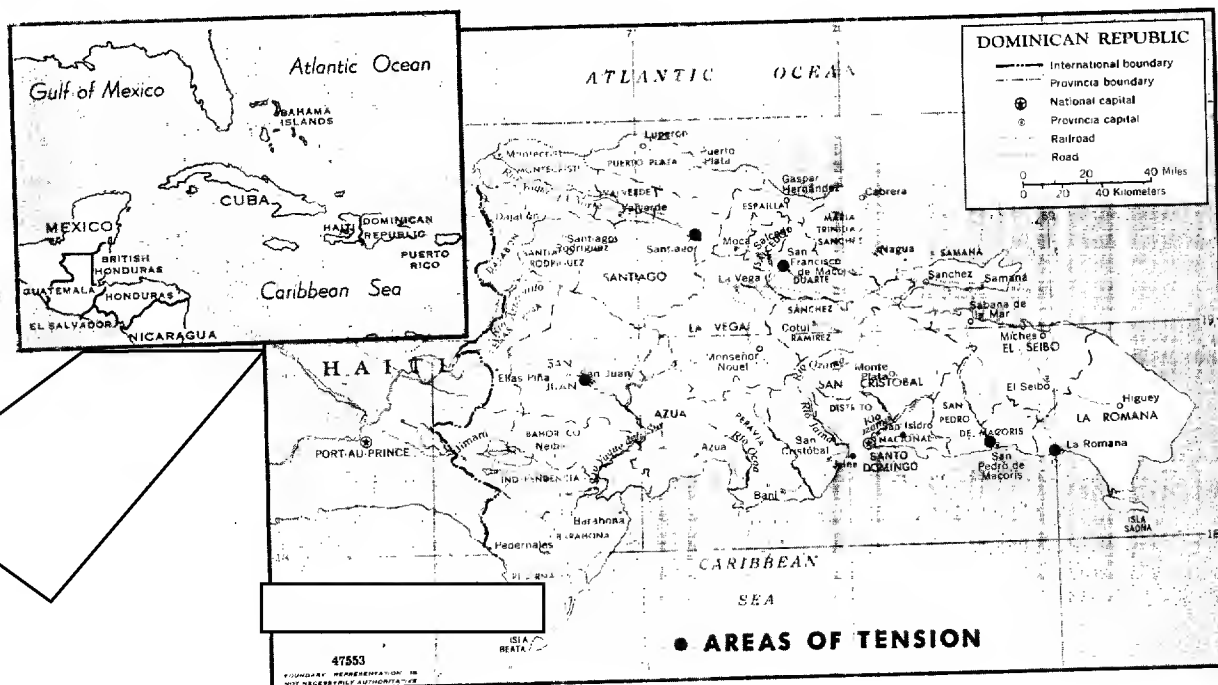
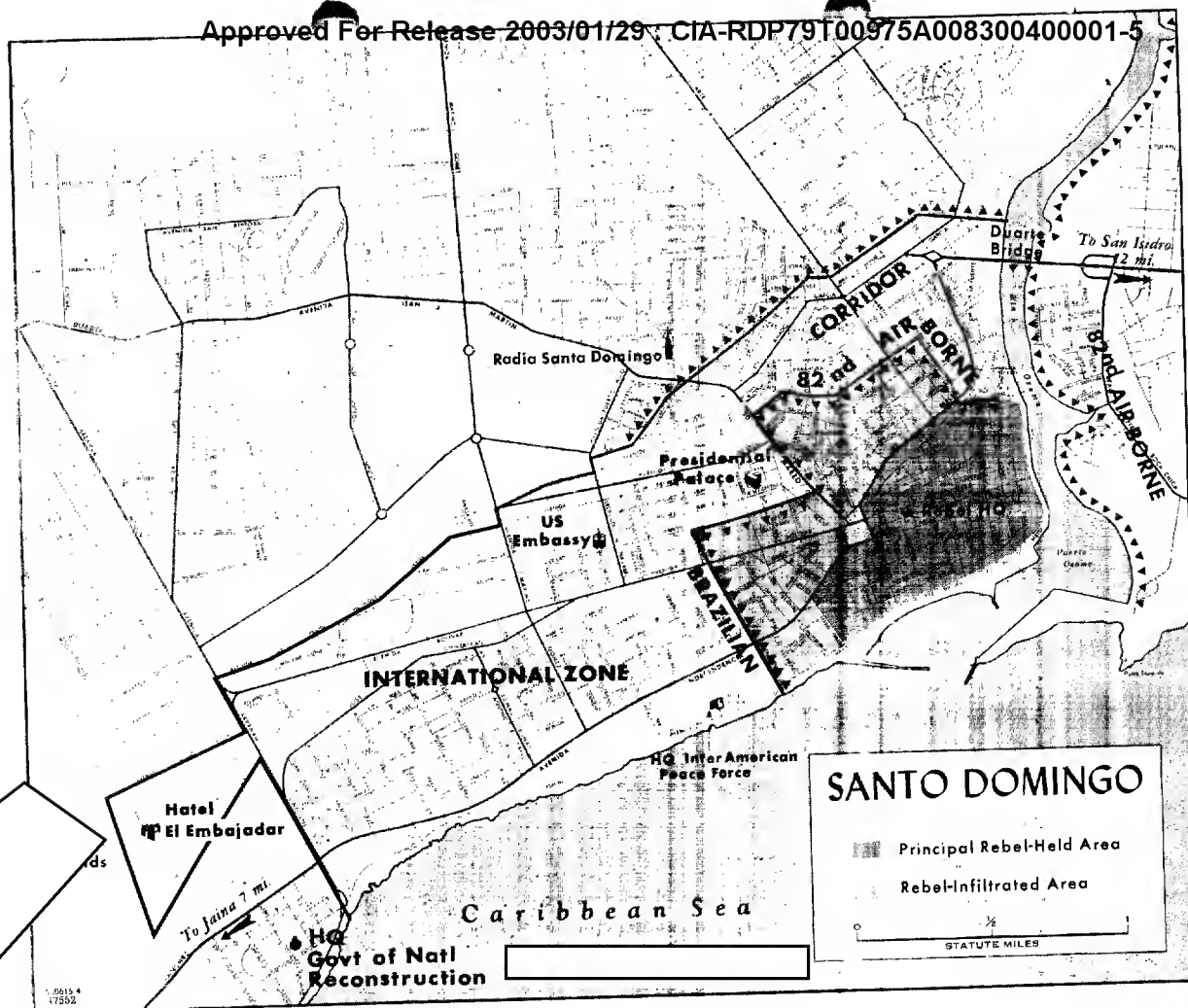
The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Two platoons of South Vietnamese troops were ambushed yesterday about 50 miles southwest of Saigon in the delta province of Dinh Tuong. Unconfirmed reports state that the attacking Viet Cong force was estimated at battalion strength. Government casualties have not been reported except for one American adviser captured in the ambush, and one American killed and three wounded when a helicopter was shot down during government relief operations.

Scattered small arms fire was reported yesterday around Dong Xoai in Phuoc Long Province, but no new major contact occurred with the Viet Cong regimental force believed to be still in the area.

A bomb explosion yesterday in the civilian terminal of the Saigon airport was probably intended by the Viet Cong for a group of 120 US servicemen, who reportedly checked through the area shortly beforehand for a chartered return flight to the US. The bomb, estimated to be a 10 or 20 pound plastic or TNT device, was planted near offices on the second floor above the passenger area. Forty-six persons including 34 American military personnel from the airport were injured by the explosion, none seriously.

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*Dominican Republic: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT) Moderate to heavy rebel fire was directed again yesterday and last night against inter-American positions in Santo Domingo as evidence continues to show increased influence of hard-line extremists in the rebel movement.

The rebel radio continued yesterday its inflammatory allegations against the US "occupation forces," charging them with new "inhuman acts of violence." The radio repeated the slogan "death to the Yankee troops" that was chanted by the crowd during the 14 June rally. Meanwhile, rebel government spokesmen remain adamant in their expressions of opposition to any compromise in their basic demands.

The thrust of rebel propaganda is that the principal enemy now is the OAS, and particularly the United States. This is consistent with the position being publicly pushed by the hard-line Communist-led 14th of June Political Group (APCJ)--that the Dominican Republic has entered the "final stage of the national liberation movement" when the important thing is to engage in armed struggle against the "Yankee invaders."

[The leaders of Juan Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), who once played an important part in the rebel movement, no longer seem to have influence.]

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[] the Communists now seem to have veto powers over the decisions of the Caamano government.]

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Meanwhile, rebel tactics at the United Nations seem designed to obtain the replacement of the OAS forces by a sizable UN presence. The UN Security Council met yesterday without coming to any vote on the Dominican problem and is to meet again on Friday.

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Guatemala: The Guatemalan Communist Party (PGT) continues to plan terrorist activities in Guatemala City.

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Guatemalan terrorists demonstrated a capability for such strikes very recently in the 21 May assassination of the deputy minister of defense and in the bombing of three embassies on 7 and 8 June. These and past terrorist successes have been claimed by both the orthodox PGT and the 13 November Revolutionary Movement led by Yon Sosa.

Recently the PGT has made progress toward its long-standing goals of taking over the leadership of opposition to the government and isolating Yon Sosa, whom the party considers to be a Trotskyite. PGT access to increased assistance from abroad apparently has done much to revitalize the party. It reportedly has received arms and ammunition through Mexico, and there are indications that increased numbers of PGT members are being trained in the USSR and Cuba.

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The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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